

# Puelche language

Puelche is an extinct language formerly spoken by the Puelche people in the Pampas region of Argentina. The language is also known as *Gününa Küne*, Gennaken (Guenaken), Northern Tehuelche, *Gününa Yajich*, Ranquelche, and Pampa.

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<b>Puelche</b>	
Gennaken	
<i>Gününa Küne</i>	
<b>Native to</b>	Argentina
<b>Region</b>	Río Negro
<b>Extinct</b>	1934 <sup>[1]</sup> with the death of Trruúlmani
<b>Language family</b>	Chonan ? ▪ Puelche–Het ? ▪ <b>Puelche</b>
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	pue
<b>Glottolog</b>	puel1244 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/puel1244">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/puel1244</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Classification

Puelche has long been considered a language isolate. Based on very limited evidence, Viegas Barros (1992) suggests that Puelche might be closely related to the language of the Querandí, one of the Het peoples, and Viegas Barros (2005) that it is related to the Chon languages.<sup>[3]</sup> Further afield, inclusion in a putative Macro-Jibaro family has been posited.

## Phonology

### Vowels

Puelche has 7 vowels:<sup>[4]</sup>

	Front	Back	
	Unrounded	Unrounded	Rounded
<u>Close</u>	i	ɯ	u
<u>Close-mid</u>	e	ɤ	o
<u>Open-mid</u>		ʌ	
<u>Open</u>	a		

A short sounding /e/ is realized as [ɛ].

# Consonants

Puelche has 25 consonants:<sup>[4][5]</sup>

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
<b>Nasal</b>		m	n						
<b>Plosive</b>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t			k	q	?	
	<u>ejective</u>	p'	t'			k'	(q')		
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d			g			
<b>Affricate</b>	<u>voiceless</u>		ts	ʈʂ	ʈʃ				
	<u>ejective</u>		ts'	ʈʂ'	ʈʃ'				
<b>Fricative</b>	<u>central</u>		s	ʂ	ʃ	x		h	
	<u>lateral</u>		ɬ						
<b>Lateral</b>			l			ɺ			
<b>Rhotic</b>	<u>trill</u>		r						
	<u>tap</u>		r̥						
<b>Approximant</b>						j	w		

It is not clear if there is a uvular ejective stop [q'].

## Vocabulary

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Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items for Gennaken.<sup>[6]</sup>

gloss	Gennaken
one	chéye
two	päch
ear	chütsk
tooth	xaye
hand	yapal
foot	yapgit
sun	apiükük
moon	apioxok
dog	dáshü

## Bibliography

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Casamiquela, Rodolfo M. (1983). *Nociones de gramática del güñuna küne*. Paris: French National Centre for Scientific Research.

Adelaar, Willem (2004). *The Languages of the Andes*. Cambridge University Press.  
ISBN 978-0-521-36275-7.

## See also

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- [Boreal Pehuelche](#)

## References

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1. [Puelche](#) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/pue/>) at [Ethnologue](#) (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "[Puelche](#)" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/puel1244>). [Glottolog 3.0](#). Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. [Campbell, Lyle](#) (2012). "Classification of the indigenous languages of South America". In Grondona, Verónica; Campbell, Lyle (eds.). *The Indigenous Languages of South America*. The World of Linguistics. 2. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 59–166. [ISBN 9783110255133](#).
4. Casamiquela, Rodolfo M. (1983). *Nociones de gramática del güñuna küne*. Paris: French National Centre for Scientific Research. pp. 34–40.
5. Barros, J. Viegas. Un nuevo análisis fonológico del güñuna yajüch. CONICET-Universidad de Buenos Aires
6. [Loukotka, Čestmír](#) (1968). [Classification of South American Indian languages](#) (<https://archive.org/details/classificationof0007louk>). Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center.

## External links

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- [Güñuna Küne language dictionary online from IDS](#) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100819194552/http://lingweb.eva.mpg.de/ids/>) (select simple or advanced browsing)
- [WALS: Puelche](#) ([http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals\\_code\\_gku](http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_gku))
- [Güñuna Küne](#) (<https://ids.clld.org/contributions/312>) (Intercontinental Dictionary Series)

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